

# FORM B – BUILDING



Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number  
0064000161 Boston N. 752, 753

Town Lexington

Place (neighborhood or village)

Address 89–91 Bedford St.

Historic Name John Davis/Hosea Holt House

Uses: Present Multi-Family Residential

Original Residential

Date of Construction 1851

Source Lexington Valuation lists

Style/Form Italianate

Architect/Builder

Exterior Material:

Foundation Brick

Wall/Trim Wood Clapboard

Roof Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures

Attached carriage house/garage

Major Alterations (with dates)

Second entry created (date unknown)

Condition Excellent

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date

Acreage 1.6 A.

Setting Set back from a street with constant traffic in an area of early 20th-century houses

Recorded by Nancy S. Seasholes

Organization Lexington Historical Commission

Date (month / year) April 1998

Follow Massachusetts Historical Commission Survey Manual instructions for completing this form.

## BUILDING FORM

### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.*

89-91 Bedford St. (MHC #752) is one of the most intact Italianates in Lexington with similar finishes, i.e., dentils at the cornice, paneled cornerboards, etc. The 2½-story, cross-gabled house is essentially cross-shaped, though the arms are neither directly opposite nor the same length. Two chimneys are located on the ridge. The house is set on a brick foundation, clad with wood clapboards, and roofed with asphalt shingles. There is a one-story addition on a brick foundation in the north rear reentrant angle and, at the rear, an attached front-gabled carriage house (MHC #753) that is now a two-car garage but still has its large swinging doors in the gable end. The west entry, probably the original one, is in the west front reentrant angle and has a roof supported by square posts with paired brackets. The east entry, in the east front reentrant angle, is enclosed and has transom lights and a double outer door. Windows are 6/6 double hung sash. Italianate finishes include a dentil course under the cornice, roundhead windows in the gables, wide paneled cornerboards, and tabs under the window sills. A one-story three-sided bay on the front of the house also has a dentil course under the cornice and paired brackets. A window above the east entry has been filled in and the foundation to the left of this entry is fieldstone rather than brick.

### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☐ *see continuation sheet*

*Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.*

Lexington assessors' records indicate that this house was built in 1851 by John Davis, a merchant who had moved to Lexington from Charlestown. Davis sold the house in 1854, however, and it then had a number of owners, many of them non-residents, until it was finally acquired in 1878 by Hosea E. Holt, a music teacher who worked in Boston and in 1884 established a music school in this house. A note on a 1941 photograph of the house indicates that the owner in the 1930s had a small riding school on the property.

### BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES ☐ *see continuation sheet*

Lexington Valuation Lists. 1848-1853.

Middlesex Registry of Deeds. Deeds. Cambridge, MA. 538: 300; 693: 67; 763: 272; 819: 27; 1056: 416; 1318: 520; 1477: 477.

Worthen, Edwin B. *A Calendar History of Lexington, Massachusetts, 1620-1946*. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Savings Bank, 1946.

———. "Photographs, Houses" file. Worthen Collection, Cary Library, Lexington, MA.

☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. *If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.*

# INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING  
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town  
Lexington

Property Address  
89-91 Bedford St.

Area(s) Form No.

752, 753



Roll #17, Negative #2